

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

May 25, 2004

**RE: UNITED STATES v. JASPAL JOHAL**

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the sentencing of Jaspal Johal of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, who was convicted of smuggling 548 pounds of hydroponic marijuana from Canada into the United States. Johal was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment penalty by United States District William M. Skretny.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Clare Kane, who handled the case, stated that the defendant had been convicted of smuggling marijuana on February 13, 2004 when he entered a plea of guilty to the crime. Johal, driving a tractor trailer truck, was arrested when he attempted to enter the United States at the Peace Bridge Port of Entry in Buffalo, New York, on November 26, 2003. The truck was referred for secondary inspection and thereafter, Border Inspectors discovered marijuana secreted in cardboard boxes in the rear of the trailer. The 548 pounds of Canadian "hydro" marijuana is believed to have a street value in excess of one million dollars.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Smith.

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